

Amendments to the Claims

1. *(Original)* A method of indexing video data by the creation of a plurality of scaled-down reference pictures and including the steps of:

creating an index file comprising a plurality of compression-encoded reference frames; and

adding the plurality of reference pictures creating during recording of the video data to a respective plurality of the said compression – encoded reference frames;

the compression-encoded reference frames being capable of containing a plurality of reference pictures each created from a plurality of different video recordings.

2. *(Original)* A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the index file includes the step of associating the index file with a database describing the index's layout and content.

3. *(Original)* A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the associated database is arranged to define the association between a scaled-down reference picture sequence and the video data.

4. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~Claim 2 or 3~~claim 2, wherein the associated database is provided at the same location as the index file.

5. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any one or more of Claims 1-4~~claim 1, and including the step of providing a predetermined plurality of compression-encoded reference frames within the index file.

6. *(Original)* A method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a corresponding plurality of scaled-down reference pictures are extracted from the video data for addition, in a respective manner, to the plurality of compression-encoded reference frames.

7. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any one or more of Claims 1-6~~claim 1, wherein the plurality of reference pictures are added to the respective plurality of compression-encoded reference frames within the compressed domain.

8. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any one or more of Claims 1-7~~claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of reference pictures is added to the respective one of the plurality of compression-encoded reference frames at a position depending on the layout of each compression-encoded frame.

9. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any one or more of Claims 1-7~~claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of reference pictures is added to the respective one of the plurality of compression-encoded reference frames at a position depending on the current content of each compression-encoded frame.

10. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the compression-encoded reference frames comprise MPEG encoded reference frames.

11. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the step of the creation of the plurality of scaled-down reference pictures is conducted subsequent to the recordal of the video data.

12. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1, and including the step of displaying a plurality of scaled-down reference picture sequences as retrieved from the plurality of compression-encoded reference frames.

13. *(Original)* An apparatus for indexing video data by the creation of a plurality of scaled-encoded reference pictures, the apparatus including means for creating an index file comprising a plurality of compression-encoded

reference frames, means for adding the plurality of reference pictures created during recording of the video data to a respective plurality of said compression-encoded reference frames, the compression-encoded reference frames being capable of containing a plurality of reference pictures each created from a plurality of different video recordings.

14. *(Original)* An apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the index file includes the step of associating the index file with a database describing the index's layout and content.

15. *(Original)* An apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the associated database is arranged to define the association between a scaled-down reference picture sequence and the video data.

16. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus as claimed in ~~Claim 14 or 15~~claim 14, wherein the associated database is provided at the same location as the index file.

17. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one or more of Claims 13-16~~claim 13, and including the step of providing a predetermined plurality of compression-encoded reference frames within the index file.

18. *(Original)* An apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, wherein a corresponding plurality of scaled-down reference pictures are extracted from the video data for addition, in a respective manner, to the plurality of compression-encoded reference frames.

19. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one or more of Claims 13-17~~claim 13, wherein the plurality of reference pictures are added to the respective plurality of compression-encoded reference frames within the compressed domain.

20. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one or more of Claims 13-19~~claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of reference pictures is added to the respective one of the plurality of compression-encoded reference frames at a position depending on the layout of each compression-encoded frame.

21. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one or more of Claims 13-19~~claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of reference pictures is added to the respective one of the plurality of compression-encoded reference frames at a position depending on the current content of each compression-encoded frame.

22. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the compression-encoded reference frames comprise MPEG encoded reference frames.

23. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the step of the creation of the plurality of scaled-down reference pictures is conducted subsequent to the recordal of the video data.

24. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1, and including the step of displaying a plurality of scaled-down reference picture sequences as retrieved from the plurality of compression-encoded reference frames.